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FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001 LB 711

measure given...given the stock market fluctuations and other considerations. It is my judgment and I think if you look at the actuarial study it is clear that the...LB 711 is still affordable, after this change, based on the July 1, 2000 valuation. But again we're suggesting this as a kind of a prudence amendment. It gives us a larger margin for error, if you will, in the actuarial valuation, it gives us a wider margin of error or wider margin for stock market fluctuations because we'll be doing another valuation of the plans as of July 1st of this year to determine their soundness and putting in what amounts to \$60 million, about \$60.2 million in the school plan on the excess formula annuity side, \$21.6 million on the service annuity side, \$4.6 or \$4.9 million in the...in the State Patrol, and \$1.2 million in the judges plan I think is prudent. Hope it's...hope it's the right thing to do in the current environment and hope you'll support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Debate on the Wickersham amendment? Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I concur with discussion that Senator Wickersham just took you through. I think it is prudent. I would, however, indicate that should the markets change, as some have predicted, there would in fact be...be excess funds again and we could address that at another time. I think now the prudent thing to is to do...is to be...use some caution because certainly there's some...some uncertainty in the market at the present time that we need to...to take a good, hard look at, and the actuary has...have done that. And this is the model that they have come up with that I think needs...needs to be followed because they are the people who have a good...good understanding of how this...how this money comes and how it can be used. It's certainly important, I think, to remember that this is not certainly General Fund money, this is the money that is put in by those who are in employment in those various agencies, along with some...with some other...some funds out of the districts and out of the...out of the state coffers. So, I think this is a good move that we should pay attention to. And I hope you would support the amendment and then support the bill as it moves on through the...through the process. With that, thank